REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application, new claims 5-18 having been added as indicated herein. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Friz, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant amends claim 1, as indicated herein, and submits that Friz does not teach or suggest at least "a plurality of medical image input devices having respective histories of evaluation results on specified items regarding quality of individual medical image input devices" as recited in amended claim 1. That is, Friz does not envisage implementing a quality control system for medical image input devices of medical diagnostic apparatuses. Friz only discloses that laser imagers 14, or medical image output devices, are to be subject to quality control and does not even mention that a medical image input device has a history of evaluation results related to quality of individual medical image input devices. Moreover, Applicant submits that even though the medical imaging system 10 of Friz includes one or more diagnostic modalities, which comprise, for example, an input medical diagnostic device such as a magnetic resonance (MR), computer tomography (CT), conventional radiography (X-ray), or ultrasound, the quality control monitoring system of Friz does not apply to such input medical diagnostic devices. Friz only contemplates controlling the quality of medical image output devices. *See Fig. 3, or col. 10 line 59- col. 11, line 21.* Therefore, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Friz.

Applicant amends dependent claim 2, as indicated herein, and submits that dependent claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 3, Applicant amends this claim, as indicated herein, and submits claim 3 is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above for independent claim 1. That is, as set forth above, Friz does not envisage implementing a quality control system for medical image input devices of medical diagnostic apparatuses. Friz only discloses that laser imagers 14, or medical image output devices, are to be subject to quality control. *See more detailed comments above with respect to claim 1.* Therefore, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant submits that amended claim 3 is patentable over Friz.

Applicant amends dependent claim 4, as indicated herein, and submits that dependent claim 4 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 3.

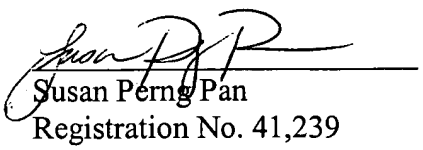
Finally, Applicant adds new claims 5-18 to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Claims 5-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies. Further, Applicant submits that the prior art does not teach or suggest the limitations reflected in these new claims. For example, with respect to new claims 6 and 8, there is no description in Friz about a "soft copy display device" (electric display device) such as an LCD and a CRT as a medical image output device. Further, with respect to new independent claim 18, Applicant submits that Friz does not teach or suggest at least "wherein at least one of said plurality of medical diagnostic apparatuses automatically outputs a history of evaluation results on specified items regarding quality of at least one of said plurality of individual medical diagnostic apparatus, to a control device," as recited in new claim 18. That is, Friz teaches that performance monitoring system 46, which allegedly corresponds to the claimed control device, is configured to monitor the performance of one or more laser imagers 14, but does not teach that a

medical diagnostic apparatus automatically outputs the claimed information to a performance monitoring system. Friz specifically states, at col. 11, lines 45-65, that the performance monitoring system must establish communication with one of the laser imagers 14 before any quality control related information can be obtained from the laser imager. Thus, the laser imagers 14 of Friz do not automatically output the claimed information to a performance monitoring system 46. Therefore, at least for the above-stated reasons, Applicant submits that new claim 18 is patentably distinguishable over Friz.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A quality control system for medical diagnostic [apparatus] apparatuses, wherein said medical diagnostic apparatuses comprise at least one medical image input device, said quality control system comprising:

a plurality of medical [diagnostic apparatuses] image input devices having respective histories of evaluation results on specified items regarding quality of individual medical [diagnostic apparatuses] image input devices;

a control device which stores all of the histories of said evaluation results which respective medical [diagnostic apparatuses] image input devices hold to control the histories thereof centrally; and

a network onto which said plurality of medical [diagnostic apparatuses] image input devices and said control device are connected.

2. (Amended) The quality control system according to claim 1, [wherein each of said plurality of] wherein said medical diagnostic apparatuses comprise at least one medical image output device that is connected onto said network [comprises at least one of a medical image input device and a medical image output device].

3. (Amended) A quality control system for medical diagnostic [apparatus] apparatuses, wherein said medical diagnostic apparatuses comprise at least one medical image input device, said quality control system comprising:

a plurality of medical [diagnostic apparatuses] image input devices;

a control device which stores all of histories of evaluation results on specified items regarding quality of individual medical [diagnostic apparatuses] image input devices to control the histories thereof centrally; and

a network onto which said plurality of medical [diagnostic apparatuses] image input devices and said control device are connected.

4. (Amended) The quality control system according to claim 3, [wherein each of said plurality of] wherein said medical diagnostic apparatuses comprise at least one medical image output device that is connected onto said network [comprises at least one of a medical image input device and a medical image output device].

Claims 5-18 are added as new claims.